

snap shots

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***Photographica 92* and PHSNE Auction, Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Newton North High School, Newton, MA**



Photographica 92, free to all PHSNE members, is a must-attend show for camera and image buffs. It's the largest film camera and vintage photography show in the eastern U.S. with over 80 vendor tables.

This year's show will take place on Saturday April 26th at the Newton North High School which is located at 457 Walnut Street in Newton, MA. The show runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and the auction starts at 4:30. Early admission begins at 7:00 A.M. General admission fee is \$5.00; free for PHSNE members, students and teachers of photography with current ID, and active military personnel. Early admission is \$20.00. Parking is free and plentiful. Invite your friends who are interested in photography.

Tables will be well stocked with cameras of all sizes, shapes, and formats from all eras; film in various sizes; photography books; and a limited supply of digital cameras and darkroom equipment.

Photographic image dealers will be very well represented with at least fifteen tables.

No new photography equipment will be available. The World Famous *Photographica Dollar Table* will open up at 11:00 AM.



A PHSNE auction will take place after the show. Additional information about the show and auction is available at phsne.org, and a list of items to be sold will be posted at the same site two weeks prior to the show.

Don't miss this opportunity to add to—or downsize (dealers buy as well as sell)—your collection and to visit with fellow photo enthusiasts.

~Photos from 2024 Photographica
by PHSNE member Dick Koolish



Journal: Call for Papers



2023 Journal, Golden Anniversary Issue

The *New England Journal of Photographic History*, an annual publication of the Photographic Historical Society of New England, is currently seeking articles with a focus on New England photographic history. We are interested in writings that have not been previously published, and we may be able to offer an honorarium for each article

accepted. We are interested in, but not limited to, writings completed within the past five years, including high quality student writings.

Examples of previous *Journals* can be found at <https://phsne.org> and <https://phsne.magcloud.com>. If you have an idea for an article you would like considered for publication, please send a brief description to journal@phsne.org.

~Journal Editorial Committee

Photographic Historical Society of New England

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$30 for students, \$50 for individuals and institutions, and \$55 for a family; foreign membership is \$60. Join or renew online at <https://phsne.org/join> or <https://phsne.org/renew>, or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453, email membership-chair@phsne.org, or use the Web form at <https://phsne.org/application>.

Snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. Volumes 11-29 are available at <https://snapshots.phsne.org>. The current volume is only available to members.

Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to PHSNE.

A Farewell to Nikon Historical Society

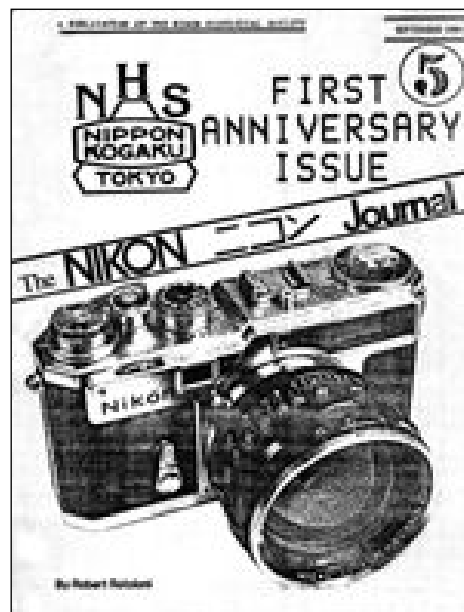
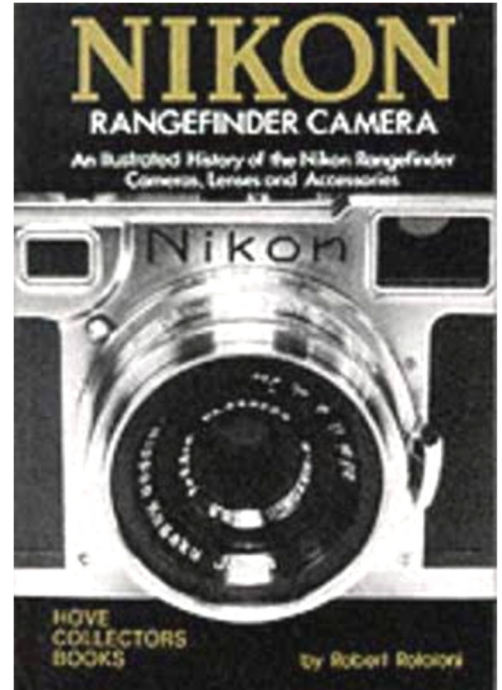
Robert Rotoloni created the Nikon Historical Society in 1983 as a business, and his book *Nikon Rangefinder Camera* is a treasure. He also published the popular quarterly, *Nikon Journal*, but soon after the December 2024 issue was published, Rotoloni wrote that while he treasures the

experience and friendships it created, “all good things must come to an end.” With rapidly rising costs and diminishing membership, dues do not cover the expenses. Postage is the major culprit with costs rising several times a year and no signs of leveling off.

NHS started out as a few stapled sheets for Nikon fanatics, and grew quickly, with many members spread around the world. Back issues of the *Nikon Journal* are still available on eBay (Nikon Historical Society).

Rotoloni was a one-man operation, with a helper when the last issue was printed. Some dedicated members might attempt to keep the NHS going, possibly via the

web. The last issue mentions “See us on Facebook and Google” on the inside front cover with the table of contents.



Kilfitt items For Sale at *Photographica 92*

The extensive collection of the late Henry Weisenburger, Honorary Life and Charter PHSNE member, included many products manufactured by Heinz Kilfitt Munchen (Munich). A number of Kilfitt lenses from his collection will be available for sale at this year's *Photographica*.

"The 400/5.6 Kilfitt is arguably the most famous Kilfitt lens, and one of the most famous camera lenses EVER. The 400/5.6 co-starred with Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly in Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film *Rear Window* mounted on an Exakta" (<https://cameraquest.com/kil400.htm>).



This is the same as the lens used in the film *Rear Window*
150mm f3.5 telephoto lenses
Fit Leica or Kilfitt Visoflex, Exakta, probably other German cameras

In its brief history of the Kilfitt company, *camera-wiki* reports that the firm "is primarily known for its innovative series of macro, telephoto, and zoom



Leica Reflex Mount - Takes the screw mount Leica, model IIIc shown,
and makes it a compact single lens reflex camera.
Kilfitt 90mm f/3.5 lens attached.

lenses from the 1950s and 1960s" but it also notes that founder Heinrich Wilhelm Kilfitt was a "prolific designer of cameras (he designed the first Robot cameras in the 1930s" (<http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/kilfitt>).



Kilfitt 100mm macro lens with calibrated magnification settings to 4x
for the Praktica SLR camera

Another *camera-wiki* article adds much detail about Kilfitt's camera designs. It cites the Kilfitt Motor Camera (similar to the 1935 Robot) which was never manufactured after the design was sold to Berning. In the early 1940s, the company produced a prototype for the Kilfitt 6x6, a 2 1/4 square format SLR, but it was never manufactured for commercial use. Another Kilfitt-designed camera, the 1951 Mecaflex 35mm SLR, fizzled after a small number were produced. Kilfitt is also credited with the Kowa Six and contributed to the Kalimar Reflex design (http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Heinz_Kilfitt).

"His firm created the earliest macro lens designs, along with a range of well-regarded telephoto lenses in mounts for the Mecaflex, Alpa, Exakta, Pentacorn Six, and others (including cine cameras). The pioneering Zoomar lens was manufactured for Voigtlander by Kilfitt [1960]. On Heinrich Kilfitt's retirement [in 1967] his company was acquired by Zoomar designer Frank Back."

~Photos by Sid Chatterjee,
PHSNE Board Member-at-large



Kilfitt 150mm f/3.5 telephoto lens
with Leica screw mount

Students Rescue Photos After Flood

As is often the case, the effort to recover from a disaster focused on saving photographs. On October 29, 2024, the region around Valencia, Spain experienced torrential rains that brought a year's worth of precipitation. Severe flooding resulted that took more than 220 lives and destroyed entire towns.

Volunteers, including students from nearby Valencia Polytechnic Institute, flocked to the area to help with the recovery efforts. The students hung posters inviting people to submit damaged photos for restoration. "Water-stained and splotted with mud, the photos have an abstract quality to them. Neon pinks, yellows, and blues have replaced the faded tones of old photo albums and the browns and sepia tones of negatives. Many are hard to decipher but for the odd caption preserved in marker. But outlines of faces and memories remain even in the most damaged pictures" (<https://tinyurl.com/2s42pmf9>).



Jose Jordan/AFP via Getty Images

Images are registered, photographed, cleaned in water, dried, and mounted on special paper. They are then returned to the owners with a digital copy. The students received more than a quarter million photos and close to two thousand albums. Their goal is to complete work on all images received by the first anniversary of the flood at the end of October.

Why Fujifilm Survived (& Kodak Didn't)

YouTube Video on the Asianometry channel

A twenty-four minute video focuses mainly on how Fujifilm survived the transition to digital photography. There's not a lot of detail on the Kodak side of this equation except for a fairly brief summary near the end outlining mistakes Kodak made; however, the comments posted under the video screen are revealing and certainly worth reading. View the video at <https://youtu.be/AdDIy0c5ZGo?si=dddKEJV3cutOh1li>.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held online on the first Sunday of each month, September to June.

Upcoming meeting:

May 4—Carl Mastandrea , camera repair

Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE's Web site is online at <https://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <https://snapshots.phsne.org> for *snap shots* issues Volume 11 (Sept 2005) to Volume 29 (June 2024).

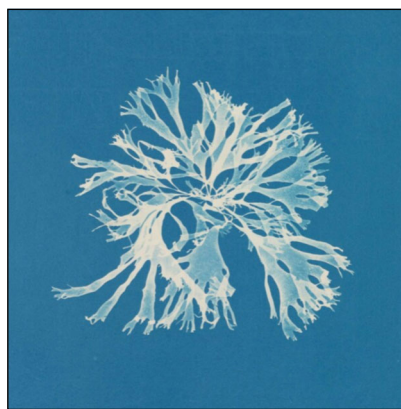
Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails and show announcements. Sign up at <https://phsne.org/emails>.

For information on all available PHSNE publications, see <https://phsne.magcloud.com>.

Griffin Museum Preparing Online Cyanotypes Exhibit

In recognition of Anna Atkins's 226th birthday, the Griffin Museum of Winchester, MA, in conjunction with *LENSCRATCH Fine Art Photography Daily*, will offer an online exhibition at the Museum's Virtual Gallery consisting of 226 cyanotype-based works. The exhibit will celebrate Atkins's "pioneering contributions to the intersection of art, science and education" (<https://griffinmuseum.org/show/atkins2025/>).

The "TOP 20 most compelling, creative, or unusual works will receive special recognition and be featured in an exclusive feature in *LENSCRATCH Fine Art Photography Daily* on the eve of the opening, March 15." The Museum's staff will select the twenty works. While the Griffin exhibit officially ends on April 15th, it will remain available online in the Museum's archives file.



<https://griffinmuseum.org/upcoming-exhibitions/>

At the February PHSNE meeting, Emily Sheffer presented her book *A Short History of Cyanotype* which included a brief history of Anna Atkins' cyanotype work.